

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 216

By White D

A RESOLUTION to recognize the City of La Vergne on the occasion of its forty-fifth anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is the privilege of this General Assembly to recognize those venerable Tennessee communities as they celebrate milestone occasions in their histories; and

WHEREAS, one such community is the City of La Vergne, which this year celebrates the forty-fifth anniversary of its incorporation, a noteworthy occasion for a city that twice faced ruin, yet each time rallied to rebuild, becoming the flourishing city it is today; and

WHEREAS, the first settlers arrived in what would become La Vergne in the late 1700s, among them Samuel and John Buchanan, who lent their surname for the town's original appellation of Buchanansville; and

WHEREAS, on August 23, 1852, the town was renamed La Vergne in honor of Francois Lenard Gregoire de Roulhac de LaVergne, an early settler who was instrumental in bringing a post office to the town; and

WHEREAS, La Vergne was first incorporated in 1860, but would only survive two years before becoming a casualty of the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, La Vergne was a small town with a railroad depot of which both Union and Confederate soldiers wanted control; seven skirmishes were fought in and around the town, including one in September of 1862 that left La Vergne a smoldering pile of ash; and

WHEREAS, as Union soldiers retreated through La Vergne, they burned the mill and houses, so devastating the town that many residents chose to move elsewhere; and

WHEREAS, those who remained in the town petitioned the Tennessee General Assembly to rescind La Vergne's incorporation, as the population had dwindled so much that

there were only around a dozen eligible voters in the town; the state legislature granted the people's wish, and La Vergne was dissolved in 1881; and

WHEREAS, through perseverance, the people of La Vergne continued to live and prosper in the place they called home, rebuilding the town and helping it grow again; however, devastation struck again in the form of a natural disaster; and

WHEREAS, in the span of twenty days, two tornadoes struck La Vergne. The first hit on November 1, 1900; though records are sparse, it is known that the women's college was destroyed in the storm; the second hit on November 20, 1900, when an F3 first touched down five miles south of Franklin and cut into Rutherford and Davidson counties, eventually hitting La Vergne; and

WHEREAS, the second tornado killed nine people, including three residing in La Vergne, and injured another forty individuals; and

WHEREAS, in the wake of the two tornadoes, the town was demolished, with only a handful of houses and one general store remaining; however, as before, the citizens of La Vergne steeled themselves and went about the work of rebuilding; and

WHEREAS, after several attempts to reincorporate between 1925 and 1972, a campaign led by La Vergne's thirty-five-year veteran post master, A.C. Puckett, was at last successful; and

WHEREAS, following La Vergne's 1972 incorporation, and after Vester Waldron's eight-year tenure as the city's first mayor, Mr. Puckett was appointed mayor, and Almond Chaney was elected to the first Board of Mayor and Aldermen; after Mr. Puckett conducted a census that indicated La Vergne's population had grown to more than 5,000, two more aldermen were elected and added to the board, Joe Montgomery and Jack Moore; and

WHEREAS, A.C. Puckett served on the board until the late 1980s; during his tenure, he was instrumental in the Department of Transportation's decision to build a road from exit 64 off Interstate 24 to Murfreesboro Road. Subsequent to this improved access to the city, Amnon Schreibman built Lake Forest Estates, a 3,386-house subdivision; and

WHEREAS, by 2015, the population of La Vergne had grown to an estimated 34,794; in recent years, the people of La Vergne have worked together to build playgrounds, develop food programs for vulnerable populations, and support a public library; and

WHEREAS, the existence of La Vergne is a testament to the resilience of the people who have called the city home; though beset with daunting obstacles throughout the years, the residents of La Vergne never gave up on their home; and

WHEREAS, La Vergne is a thriving community and integral part of the Middle Tennessee region, and it is fitting that the city be recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby join in celebrating with the City of La Vergne on the occasion of its forty-fifth anniversary, extending our sincere best wishes for the success, prosperity, and happiness of the citizens of La Vergne and the continuation of La Vergne's legacy as a successful Tennessee community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.